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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, a Senator from the State of New York.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we praise You for Your faithfulness. Now in this sacred season, we join with Jews all over the world as they light their menorahs and remember Your faithfulness in keeping the eternal light burning in the temple. We gather with Christians around a manger scene and praise You for Your faithfulness in sending the Light of the World to dispel darkness. Your indefatigable love is incredible. You never give up on us. You persistently pursue us, offering us the way of peace to replace our perplexity. You offer Your good will to replace our grim wilfulness. In spite of everything humankind does to break Your heart, You are here, once again sending Your angel to tell us of Your good will, Your pleasure in us just as we are, and for all we were intended to be. Change all of our grim "bah humbug" attitudes to humble adoration.

Help us to be as kind to others as You have been to us, to express the same respect and tolerance for the struggles of others as You have expressed to us by turning our struggles into stepping stones, to understand us as we wish to be understood. Help us to shine with Your peace and good will. In the name of the Light of the World. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD.)

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 12, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. CLINTON thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, this morning we are going to be on the farm bill. There is going to be 50 minutes of debate equally divided and there will be a vote at approximately 10:20 this morning.

The majority leader has asked me to announce that he wants to work into the evening tonight to make significant progress on this bill. It is Wednesday. For those who want to leave Friday or this weekend, it is very clear to everyone we have to make progress on this bill. So I hope everyone will understand there will be no windows. We will have to work right through the evening, working as late as possible, as long as the managers think we are making progress on the bill.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION, AND RURAL ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2001.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 1731, which the clerk will report.

NOTICE

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Michael F. DiMario, *Public Printer*

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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